

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawings (2 pages) include changes to FIGS. 1 and 2.

Drawing Sheets showing Figures 1 and 2 have been replaced with new Drawing Sheets labeling Figures 1 and 2 as "Prior Art" and labeling each of same "Replacement Sheet", to overcome the Examiner's objections.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claim 1, 2, 6, 7, 11 and 12 have been amended. Claims 1-15 are pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the first sentence of the specification must be amended to reference a prior-filed application under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) to receive the benefit of same. The Examiner refers to 37 C.F.R. 1.78(a) and MPEP 201.11. It is respectfully submitted that no such amendment to the specification is required to receive the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). It is also respectfully submitted that the proper claim for the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119 has been made, that the certified copy of the prior-filed Japanese application has been filed in the subject U.S. application, and that the Examiner has acknowledged receipt of same in the November 21 Office Action.

It is respectfully submitted that a proper claim for the benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-204724 (filed July 5, 2001) has been made and it is respectfully requested that the subject application be granted the benefit of the JP '724 application.

Umeda discusses that VSM generates production or transportation orders to send to suppliers.

In contrast to Umeda, the present invention records data including at least a contract term, an article price and an article generated by the intra-organization procedure.

These features of the present invention are discussed in the specification, page 25, lines 14-27 and page 26, lines 1-10.

Moreover, Figure 13 of the present application shows an example of a master database in the virtual corporation as an ordering party. The master database retained by the restoration processing system 5 includes, for example, a contract terms master table, a price master table, a figure number master table and so on.

The contract terms master table is recorded with contract terms with a transaction party (an order receiving party). Each record in the contract terms master table includes data entered in a "corporation code" field, a "freight terms" field and a "payment terms" field.

The price master table is recorded with an article price in each transaction party (the order receiving party). Each record in the price master table includes a corporation code, a figure number and a price. The price master table, based on this data structure, retains a

dealing price of the article indicated by the figure number for every transaction specified by the corporation code.

The figure number master table is recorded with the article for every transaction party (the order receiving party). The figure number master table includes a "corporation code" field, a "figure number" field and an "article name" field. The figure number master table is, based on this data structure, recorded with the figure number and the article corresponding to this figure number with respect to every transaction party.

More particularly, each of independent claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11 and 12 of the present application recites "the data includes at least a contract term, an article price and an article".

Umeda does not discuss or suggest the feature of the present invention.

Claims 3-5 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1; claims 8, 9, and 10 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 6; and claims 13, 14, and 15 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 11, and are allowable at least for their dependence upon the respective base claim.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

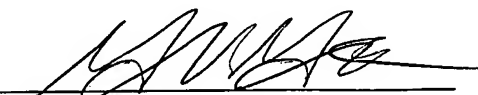
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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